



# Arizona State Retirement System

3300 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012  
WWW.AZASRS.GOV

## **Special Notice** **Rural Subsidy Extension**

*June 28, 2007*

Legislation that extends the ASRS Rural Health Insurance Subsidy for two more years, through June 30, 2009 for Medicare-eligible retirees living in Arizona counties with no HMO service area, has been signed into law by Governor Janet Napolitano.

The rural subsidy extension, contained in House Bill 2311, will continue uninterrupted beginning July 1, 2007. It ranges from \$100 a month to \$400 a month, depending on coverage options selected and years of service at the time of retirement and applies only to Medicare-eligible retirees living in Mohave, Gila, Apache and Navajo counties.

Since 2001, the ASRS has provided a temporary health insurance premium benefit to retirees living in rural areas of the state where no HMO exists. This "rural subsidy" helps offset the high cost of health insurance and is in addition to the Health Insurance Premium Benefit all retirees are eligible to receive.

The ASRS has been addressing the retiree health insurance issue over the past several years. Recently, the ASRS announced that health insurance premiums and plan provisions for ASRS health insurance will remain unchanged for 2008. This is good news for the more than 28,000 retirees who take advantage of the ASRS health insurance program.

Meanwhile, the ASRS basic Retiree Health Insurance Premium Benefit program will continue to provide monthly benefits to all eligible retirees. This benefit ranges from \$75 to \$260 per month in direct benefits, again depending on coverage selected and years of service at the time of retirement.

To learn more about ASRS retiree health insurance programs and benefits, please visit our website at [www.azasrs.gov](http://www.azasrs.gov)

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